

# **IMPROVEMENTS OF SAMPLE DESIGN FOR RURAL STATISTICAL SURVEYS IN CHINA**

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In 1997, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) of China successfully conducted the first national agricultural census in China, accounting for approximately 214 million rural households. Following completion of the Chinese Census of Agriculture, NBS of China pursued development of a new sample design for rural surveys and an expansion of rural statistical surveys in China. The objectives of the new sample design for rural surveys are: (1) to effectively use data from the Chinese Census of Agriculture; (2) to be able to select samples using multiple variables, which is necessary to support an expanded survey program; (3) to integrate the statistical needs for different levels of government (national, provincial, prefecture and county).

The NBS of China developed a survey in Guangdong Province to test a new sample design and an expanded survey program. The sample design chosen for the new program in China is referred to as Multivariate Probability to Size (MPPS). Following successful pilot surveys in selected areas, the new survey design was implemented throughout the entire Province of Guangdong, starting in 2003. This paper describes the pilot survey conducted in Guangdong Province, using a MPPS sample design.